

Wind Power—A Federal Commitment to the Environment

The Denver Federal Executive Board (DFEB), a group composed of the heads of government agencies in the Denver area, is leading an initiative resulting in the largest ever commitment by federal agencies to purchase electricity generated by the wind.

As of April 27, 2000, agencies along the Colorado Front Range have committed to the purchase of electricity from roughly 10 megawatts of wind turbines. Most will come from Public Service Co. of Colorado's *Windsource* program, but some will also come from other Colorado utilities' wind programs.

The actual amount of electricity purchased will depend on the premium charged for wind energy. Current premiums for wind power in Colorado range from \$2.50 to \$3.00. The agencies will work through the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) to improve energy efficiency and use the savings to purchase wind power.

DOE's Golden Field Office, Denver Regional Office and National Renewable Energy Laboratory; the U. S. General Services Administration; and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency are working with the DFEB in this effort to encourage federal agencies to purchase clean, reliable power from a renewable energy source.

As of April 27, 2000, some 30 federal agencies have committed to purchase a significant portion of their electricity needs from wind energy. The initiative is in response to the 30th anniversary of Earth Day and President Clinton's Executive Order 13123, signed June 3, 1999, which directs federal agencies to increase their use of renewable energy. Last year, the President also announced the Windpowering America program, with the goal of 5 percent of America's electricity generated by wind by the year 2020.

DOE's goal is to replicate the success of the DFEB initiative in other states where utilities offer wind power. Nationwide, the federal government has more than 500,000 buildings, and federal agencies spend more than \$8 billion dollars a year on energy. The federal government is the largest single energy user in the nation. The potential for the use of wind power, and other renewable energy sources, is enormous.

Using wind and other renewable energy sources helps improve the air quality of the region and helps fight global climate change. The Colorado federal agencies' wind energy commitments will have a positive impact on the environment roughly equivalent to planting 11,250 trees or to avoiding 54 million miles each year in automobile travel. The U.S. wind industry currently generates about 3.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year -- enough to meet the annual electricity needs of one million people.

Contacts: Randy Jones, Denver Regional FEMP Manager, 303-275-4814; Ed Cannon, NREL Wind Program, 303-384-6920; Chandra Shah, NREL FEMP Program, 303- 275-7557; Jim O'Keefe, General Services Administration, 303-236-4300, Ext. 236

Participating Federal Agencies

- ◆ U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
- ◆ Fort Carson Army Base
- ◆ U. S. Department of Energy – Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site
- ◆ U. S. Geological Survey
- ◆ U. S. Department of Energy - National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- ◆ U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Denver Medical Center
- ◆ U. S. Mint
- ◆ U. S. Marshal Service
- ◆ U. S. Department of Energy - Western Area Power Administration
- ◆ Social Security Administration
- ◆ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
- ◆ U. S. Department of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Service
- ◆ U. S. Department of Interior – Minerals Management Service
- ◆ U. S. Department of Education
- ◆ U. S. Department of Energy - Golden Field Office
- ◆ U. S. General Services Administration
- ◆ Office of Personnel Management
- ◆ U. S. Department of Energy - Denver Regional Office
- ◆ U. S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- ◆ U. S. Department of Justice – U. S. Trustee Program
- ◆ Federal Emergency Management Agency
- ◆ U. S. Department of Labor
- ◆ U. S. Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology
- ◆ U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- ◆ U. S. Department of Interior - National Park Service
- ◆ U. S. Department of Agriculture - Food Safety and Inspection Service
- ◆ U. S. Department of Agriculture - National Agricultural Statistics Service
- ◆ Defense Contract Management Agency
- ◆ U. S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management
- ◆ U. S. Air Force Academy
- ◆ Government Printing Office

